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LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Friday, August 18, 1972

11:00 o'clock a.m.

JERRY G. JONES, Chairman

State Land and Natural
Resources Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 11:00 o'clock a.m. on Friday, August 18, 1972, at the State Land and Natural Resources Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Jerry G. Jones, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

J. G. JONES, Chairman

H. C. WRIGHT, Vice-Chairman

C. M. HOFFPAUER, Director

L. J. AUTIN

J. L. WALKER

A G E N D A

MR. RICHARD YANCEY:

1. Setting of the 1972-73 duck and goose hunting seasons and bag limits. (4)
2. Request from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for 100 alligators for restocking purposes. (39)

MR. ALLEN ENSMINGER:

3. Experimental alligator project in El



Salvador.

(42)

MR. HARRY SCHAFER:

4. Sack only experimental oyster area in
California Bay.

(44)

5. Request by Ratcliff Materials, Inc., to
assign Pointe-au-Fer and Four Party
Agreement leases.

(50)

OTHER BUSINESS

(54)

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CHAIRMAN JONES: The meeting will come to order. One of the purposes of this special meeting is to set the duck and goose season. There are a number of people that are present that I know want to be heard about it, so I would suggest that we proceed in this order.

We will have our biologists briefly give us the framework that is allowed by the federal government. Secondly, then we will proceed to hear anyone that wants to be heard, and you can take all the time you want to, but just don't be repetitious. After that, we will call on our biologists for a summary and what their recommendations are. Dick.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, and ladies and gentlemen, we have received the waterfowl hunting regulations from the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wild Life and they have given us the season length, the bag limits, the framework, and have asked us to set the dates of the duck and goose seasons here in Louisiana and reply by August 21, so it is incumbent upon us at this time that we do set the dates of both the duck and the goose hunting seasons in



Louisiana.

Now, if it meets with your approval, I will read the frameworks and the season lengths and the options that we have for both the duck and the goose season. Perhaps then you would wish to call on those that are present and want to be heard.

The framework for the duck season this year is October 1 through January 20. We are offered 50 days of duck hunting. We are allowed to split this duck season into two periods of unequal lengths without penalty, and we have two options offered in connection with the bag limit. The first of these would allow a bag limit of four ducks, of which all four could be mallards, or a bag limit of six ducks, of which only two could be mallards.

Secondly, the goose framework is October 1 through February 14. We are allowed 70 days of goose hunting. This season can be set in two periods of unequal lengths or equal lengths without penalty. The bag limits on geese are essentially the same as they were last year.

At this point we may want to call on



anyone present who would want to make recommendations to the Commission on what these duck and goose seasons should be, and if you want to comment on which option you feel the Commission should select in connection with the bag limits, it would be timely to do that.

MR. J. L. WALKER: Dick, maybe I didn't understand you or didn't hear you or wasn't listening, but did you mention about the selection of either four mallards or --

MR. YANCEY: Yes, I covered that.

MR. WALKER: Oh, you did? O.K. I am sorry.

MR. J. L. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Board and gentlemen of the staff and members of the press, I have long enjoyed serving as a member of this board but right now I am not, but I do want to say something about this duck season, and it is on my own personal knowledge and own personal ideas without knowing what the biologists have recommended or what Mr. Bosch and his federation have recommended.

I have long been in favor, if possible,



biologically speaking, that if the children of the State of Louisiana had an opportunity to hunt during the Thanksgiving holidays and during the Christmas holidays, they should be considered. Of course, in most instances that would necessitate a split season.

What I personally would recommend, if possible, is that the Thanksgiving holidays be included in the season and the Christmas holidays be included during the season, so that the school children and my grandsons and yours to come would have an opportunity to hunt. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who is next?

MR. CHARLES BOSCH: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Executive Director, Members of the Board and ladies and gentlemen, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, comprised of some 90 clubs, held its thirty-third annual convention here in Baton Rouge here in March of this year and, after much discussion, in committee, on Sunday morning when it was brought before the whole congress of some 250 delegates, the Federation's delegates went on record unanimously in favor of the latest possible duck season.



Therefore, in accordance with that resolution, the Federation asks that the season on duck hunting be opened on Saturday, December 2, and go through Saturday, January 20.

As far as the goose hunting season, the resolution adopted by these delegates, some 250 from 93 clubs, asked that the goose season hunting days be concurrent with the duck season and that any extra days of goose hunting beyond the number of days allowed for duck hunting be set as late as possible. In other words, you have a 70-day goose season allowed and only 50 days for the duck season and they want the goose season to be concurrent with the duck season, and the extra 20 days of goose hunting to be set as late as possible, which I understand is all the way back to February 14.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Charlie. Who is next? Yes, come on up. State your name, please, and if you represent a club or a group, please state that also.

MR. JAMES NEILL: Mr. Chairman, I am Jim Neill from Monroe with the Oauchita Parish Wild

Life Unit. We came to Baton Rouge today to support the late straight season. I would like to have a point of information brought up at this time. How are you going to vote or select the season and the days? Will you first select whether or not it is a late-straight, early-straight or split season and then select the days' framework?

THE CHAIRMAN: Normally what we do, after we have heard everything, somebody makes a motion for a specific season.

MR. NEILL: For a specific season without -- you might have a variety of combinations within this, is that right?

THE CHAIRMAN: That is right.

MR. NEILL: If you wouldn't have a selection as I described, where you would select the type season, either late-straight or split, then I would like to put this recommendation before the Board, that if a late-straight season is not selected, that the second part of the split start on December 23, running through January 18, whatever the first split would be. I mean, we are not concerned, if we are going to have a split season,



basically when the first half starts, but we are --

THE CHAIRMAN: That would be 27 days?

MR. NEILL: 27 days, right. But basically, we would like --

MR. WALKER: Dick, will you put that calendar up there so we can see it?

MR. NEILL: Basically we would like to support the late straight season, with this being an alternate position of the north part of the state.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does anyone have any idea as to when school would be out for the Christmas holidays? Would it probably be the 22nd of December? Does anybody have any idea?

FROM THE FLOOR: That's about right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which is the Friday before? Apparently, school would be out the Friday before and then stay out until the 5th of January.

MR. NEILL: I have about six-minutes of speech in favor of a late-straight, but if you would rather not sit through it --

THE CHAIRMAN: No, no, we want to hear it.

MR. PATRICK WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I am Pat Wright from



Monroe. I have worked a lot with Tex Kilpatrick and other members of Ducks Unlimited, and I am an avid duck hunter in the Monroe-North Louisiana and southern Arkansas area.

Of course, as Jim Neill said, we would like to have a late straight season. However, we realize that the people of South Louisiana, and justifiably so, want an early season because this is the highest time for harvest, but if we are going to have a split season, that seems to be the sentiment.

We would like to have it, rather than -- the rumor as I get it or the talk I get, the talk is from December 16 through January 11. If we could just have it from December 23 through January 18, which would be moving it up a week, and it would also start on a Saturday. The 23rd is a Saturday and it would catch the school children and all.

This would give us an extra seven days because I have seen it for the last five years, that big bunch of mallards hits North Louisiana sometime between January 10 and January 20,



depending upon when Arkansas freezes over, and if we could possibly catch those seven days, we would have three or four real good hunting days at the end of the season. To that end, I would like to ask that the Commission consider this request on a split season. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask you something. How is your hunting, say, beginning about the 16th of December?

MR. WRIGHT: From November 20 through December 20, it is zero in North Louisiana. It is a complete write-off. Those days are just bluebird days and we don't get any good shooting. That is the reason we want to push it up. It's just not any good at all.

MR. H. C. WRIGHT: Well, if it happened that you had a big freeze in Arkansas, say, the 15th or 13th of December, wouldn't that shove those ducks down?

MR. PATRICK WRIGHT: Yes, sir, but let me explain to you about the ducks leaving Arkansas. It's got to freeze over for two days there. The first day it freezes over, they hit the river, and



then they will go back. It's got to freeze over and if it thaws back up, they will go right back to Arkansas. That very seldom ever happens. They may get down a day but they are gone back the very next day, as soon as it thaws up. They've got a lot of rice in Arkansas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask your thoughts about something. You know, the figures that the biologists have show that, for example, 70 percent of the hunting is done in the marshes. Then you can't ignore the marsh country. Do you feel it would be a fair thing for the Commission if it were trying to resolve the conflict, and the marsh people wanted November hunting, to split the season? Would you have any objection to that?

MR. PATRICK WRIGHT: No, sir, I do not. In fact, I am in favor of the November 4 through November 26, because I realize that you all kill most of your ducks down there. All we want is just part of the pie. We don't want it all. We just would like to get the latter part.

THE CHAIRMAN: And our argument is, how much of the pie are we giving to particular areas.



That's what it amounts to.

MR. PATRICK WRIGHT: Right. But if you have got to go a split, and it seems that is the only way to do it, let's have, rather than go from December 16 to January 11, let us have that extra seven days because, believe me, the season closed on Tuesday last year, I believe January 11. On Friday every mallard in the world it looked like hit North Louisiana. You could ride down any old farm road and look out in the field, and there were just mallards by the thousands, literally.

As soon as it freezes over and the ducks move down here, we would get two or three days of good shooting. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. WALKER: What did he recommend for the closing? The 18th?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. PATRICK TURK: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board or whomever I am speaking to here today, my name is Pat Turk and I am representing all of the hunting clubs in the Marksville, Bordelonville, Moreauville, Cottonport, Evergreen



areas. Anyway, what we are trying to get over from that area is, we know there will probably be a split, more than likely. We have lived with it for a few years, anyway.

If there is going to be a split, what we want in that area is for the last half of that season to run all the way out to the end of the framework, like some of the other gentlemen here have already stated. Now we are sort of in favor, and rumor has it the other way around, but we are sort of in favor of a split because sometimes in the last part of the season, our blinds go under water back there in Smith Bay, and we don't have no place to hunt. So, if we are going to have a split, let's have it open, including the Thanksgiving holidays. Like me, I am a college student and I am out of school and I can go hunt. Then, of course, we get our Christmas holidays off, too.

But we do want the last half of that season to run all the way out to the end of that framework, because it seems like the later the season goes, the better chance we are going to have of killing some ducks down there. I am just one



of the little people out amongst the little people down there, and these people haven't been being heard heretofore, and you may get tired of seeing me before it is over with.

THE CHAIRMAN: We'll never do that. Let me ask you a question.

MR. NEILL: I have a point. May I speak to that?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, go ahead.

MR. NEILL: The situation that we recommended runs within two days of the end of the framework, but it starts and stops on Saturdays, which we think might be a little more compatible with the calendar.

MR. H. C. WRIGHT: It won't start and stop on a Saturday on the 18th.

MR. NEILL: It will stop on a Thursday.

MR. PATRICK TURK: We are not here to buck the system or make anybody mad, but still and all we want that season to run just as late toward that framework, the end of it, as we can.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask you something. How is your hunting in that area between December 1



and, let's say, the 23rd of January? Do you have any hunting?

MR. TURK: Well, it will be better than it will be earlier than that. I will guarantee you that. That's when our ducks come in there, towards the end of the season. Last year, like this other gentleman had said, when the season was over, we stayed in the woods a couple of days because we couldn't get out, and it was very tempting at times to kill a mess of ducks, because they were there. We did have some fairly decent shooting toward the end of the season. It just seemed like we were limited to just a couple of days at the end of the season. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Next.

MR. EDGAR VEILLON: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, my name is Edgar Veillon. I represent the Council of Sportsmen's Club of Greater New Orleans. This is a group of seven hunting clubs, totalling about 2,000 members, that has asked me to appear here this morning and ask that consideration be given to a late straight season, beginning on December 2 and continuing through



January 20.

The reason that we ask for this is the area that we hunt in has the bonus on scaup, which at that time we have a much greater opportunity to shoot these birds, because they don't usually become available until the latter part and sometimes they miss the season altogether. As we know, they arrive here early but they stay out in the large open bodies of water, in the lakes and so forth, and of course you can't hunt them out there. This was the reason that we asked for the season at that time.

MR. WALKER: I guess you know what you are asking us to do is to cut out Thanksgiving holidays.

MR. VEILLON: Mr. Walker, we do realize that, and one of the things that -- one thought that I have is that, is it best to have the season at a time when people can hunt, or is it best to have the season at a time when the birds are available? If everybody can go out and hunt and there are no birds to shoot, or not as many as could be available, then you are really spinning your wheels.



You are going through the finances and time and effort for what?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, but when the biologists get up here, I think one of the things they are going to tell you about November is that that is when we have got all the birds in Louisiana.

MR. VEILLON: Well, I think traditionally these have been transient birds. They don't stay very long. Our experience down in South Louisiana has been that the hunter opportunity just isn't as consistent at that time of the year as it is later.

MR. WALKER: You know, the greatest phenomenon that I have seen since I have been serving on this Commission has been to provide the school children and the college students an opportunity to hunt. Two years ago we heard from numerous school board, principals, and so on. Do you remember, Jerry?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. VEILLON: I can appreciate that.
Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Who is next? Are the rest of you satisfied? Anybody



else? Dick, do you want to give us your report?

MR. YANCEY: Before presenting the recommendations of our Commission biologists, I would like to make a couple of preliminary comments. One is that we were in Canada the third week of July and we found the water conditions not to be what they have been for the past three years. In 1969, '70 and '71, we had excellent water conditions in Canada. This year we found that southern Saskatchewan, southwestern Manitoba and southeastern Alberta were quite dry. This is a normal situation and it occurs much more frequently than do the wet years that we have enjoyed the past three years.

Secondly, I would like to say that we feel that the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wild Life did about the best job of allocating regulations to the states that we have seen in the past 20 years that we have worked with them. They have new leadership in the Bureau, and we think they did a good job and we think they offered Louisiana a fair and reasonable set of duck hunting regulations.

Unfortunately, they had not arrived at a decision as to whether Louisiana would be administered



according to Central Flyway or Mississippi Flyway regulations this year, but they finally told us that we would be regulated according to Mississippi Flyway regulations again this year. Of course, we feel that this is a matter of administrative convenience because the reports that were submitted to us from Illinois and North Carolina both indicated that from the biological standpoint, Louisiana should be in the Central Flyway.

In late July the Bureau called a meeting in Washington and we were in attendance there and they gave us a report of their findings in Canada that indicated that the fall flight would be about the same as it was last year, and they also indicated that they were thinking along the lines of giving the states about the same hunting regulations that they had last year. Then some ten days elapsed and then they came back and had a second meeting and announced the recommendations of their staff, which was that the states be allowed approximately the same hunting regulations that they were last year. We felt that they were very fair and reasonable in the way that they handled that.



Now at this point I would like to say that our biologists have been reviewing the federal regulations for the past several days, ever since we received a phone call last Thursday as to what these would be. Larry Swallow and Hugh Bateman I think have done an excellent job in reviewing and analyzing the migration and distribution patterns of waterfowl into Louisiana that the Commission has compiled over the last 20 years of flying aerial censuses of ducks during the fall and winter months in this state.

They have analyzed that information and they have also analyzed the waterfowl kill data that has been compiled not only through hunter bag checks in the fields back in the 50s but also as a result of the more recent mail questionnaire surveys that have gone out to the duck hunters around Louisiana. We have about 125- to 130,000 people that hunt ducks in this state and these questionnaires are mailed out to a certain percentage of those in order to obtain waterfowl kill data that we feel is quite reliable.

Also, consideration is given to water and



habitat conditions in Louisiana in formulating these recommendations. Now their recommendations are based on what they feel will provide the best hunting for the most people in this state. As we have heard this morning and also over the telephone for the past several days and various letters and wires and so forth, there is a wide difference of opinion in Louisiana as to what the duck season date should be.

We have a lot of people that would like to have a straight season. There is no question about that. Many of these, however, would like to have this straight season start in early November and close before Christmas. We also have recommendations for straight seasons that we have heard this morning. Some of those that we have heard this morning, and they come chiefly out of the bottomland regions of the state, the hardwood lands of the state, and they want the latest straight season they can get. Certainly this would provide that particular section of the state with the best hunting. We don't contest that at all.

Then we have other recommendations for



a split season, similar to those that we have had for the past two years.

In analyzing the kill data, we have heard indications here that perhaps during November you don't kill ducks in Louisiana, but the kill data does not agree with this at all. Last year Louisiana duck hunters killed just about as many ducks during 18 days in November as they did during 32 days in December and January. The average take during that November season was some 52,000 per day, as compared to only 32,000 per day during the late season, the late part of the split last year.

Now the explanation for this is that we have a tremendous transient migration of ducks that moves through Louisiana. These birds are coming in now. We have a lot of blue-winged teal in Louisiana now along with some pintails, and the tempo of this transient flight increases on into October and on up until early November, but it is generally over by November 20. If you want to shoot these ducks that go into Central and South America, you have got to have your hunting going on during the time they are coming through. Otherwise, if you open



late, you miss this transient flight altogether.

Of course, as was pointed out here this morning, if you don't have some late hunting, then you do not get the advantage of the mallards that come in late. But the transient ducks are principally pintails, blue- and green-winged teal, widgeon, shovellers, scaups and birds of that type, whereas your late arrivals, your wintering ducks are your mallards principally. They do not come in -- we get a mallard migration usually in the first ten days of November and then we get our big influx of mallards in late December and in January, when cold weather moves some of these ducks from mid-part of the flyway on into Louisiana.

Based on this analysis, these are the recommendations of the biologists and they feel this will provide the best hunting for the most people in the state. That is that we have, first of all, in connection with the bag limits, we have an option of selecting a bag limit of four ducks, of which all four can be mallards, or a bag limit of six ducks, of which only two can be mallards. We recommend that we select the second option of



a general daily bag limit of six, of which only two can be mallards. This is based on the fact that only about ten percent of the ducks, or even less, that come to Louisiana are mallards, and that we feel that we should take advantage of the more abundant birds that are here and have the larger bag limit in order to do this.

Secondly, a split season is recommended. The first half would begin on Saturday, November 4, and extend through the Thanksgiving holidays and close on November 26. This would provide and allow for the taking of these transient ducks that are moving through the state.

The second split it is recommended begin on Saturday, December 16, and extend through Thursday, January 11. Now this would provide for 23 days of hunting in the first segment and 27 days in the second segment.

It is also recommended for the goose season that the first part of the goose season run from November 4 through November 26, which would be concurrent with the duck season, the first part of the duck season, and the second goose season then



would open on December 16 and run through January 31. We do have a goose framework that runs on to February 14. The Commission had asked that we be allowed to split this goose season into three segments so that we could take advantage of that later framework. However, that request was turned down, so we are dealing with an opportunity here of splitting the goose season into only two periods. It is certainly the wish of the hunter that the goose season run concurrent with the duck season and this proposal would provide for that, with the remainder of the 20 days of additional goose hunting running on to January 31.

We also were offered, of course, an option on the scaup, of a special scaup season or a bonus scaup of two during the regular duck season, and certainly we would recommend that we have this bonus of two scaup, which would extend through the entire duck season. Now this bonus scaup, of course, would apply not only in that portion of Louisiana where it was open last year, which is generally the coastal marsh region, but those are the recommendations at this time.



Perhaps you would want to adjourn a few minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Before we do that, I was just talking about last week I attended a meeting in Washington with the Department of the Interior people, with Mr. Yancey and Mr. Hoffpauer, and if you want to see people that really gained respect from the people in Washington, it is these two men. This was a meeting where they heard from all the flyway people, in preparation for promulgating the framework. I was tremendously impressed with the reception that they had in Washington. They were really respected as people that know something about the migratory waterfowl. I think Louisiana was well represented.

(Applause)

MR. J. L. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question? I wonder, before you all deliberate, could we see this map in front of you all and see what Mr. Yancey has recommended, that calendar.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. NEILL: Mr. Chairman, could I ask a question?



THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

MR. NEILL: Mr. Yancey, what would be the big disadvantage of moving your last half of the season recommendations forward one week? I realize that the marsh is depleted then but in North Louisiana we basically want a late straight season. We flew down here from Monroe with this in mind and we are sticking to our guns on a late straight season but we do see that this is wanting the whole bag of marbles if we do this, so we are willing to go with the split season, starting as early as November 4. But if we do that and we don't take advantage of the season as late as it will run, or within two days of as late as it will run, then we are losing three-quarters of the bag of marbles because this last week is probably going to be our prime week up in North Louisiana.

My question is this: Would this be that much of a disadvantage to the coastal areas as it would be an advantage to us, knowing that we are giving up this early split as opposed to a late straight?

MR. YANCEY: Well, we believe, and we



gave this a lot of consideration, and Swallow and Bateman and I have talked on this very point, we feel that we will take more ducks in the state starting on the 16th than we will on the 23rd of December. For one thing, I don't think you would have a tremendous turnout. You wouldn't have, we believe, the turnout on the 23rd that you would have on the 16th, because you are running right into Christmas, on the 24th, which in this particular year is a Sunday. People are going to be shopping, I believe, on Saturday, the 23rd, and really aren't going to have the opportunity to go to the blinds.

MR. NEILL: This is normal conjecture. I mean, a duck hunter that knows the second half opens on the 23rd, he is going to shop on the 22nd.

MR. YANCEY: Possibly so, but in any event, I still think the main reason isn't that. The main reason is that we will take more ducks in this state, starting on the 16th, than we will starting on the 23rd.

MR. PATRICK WRIGHT: But northeast Louisiana is the redheaded stepchild in this whole



scheme of the season.

MR. YANCEY: Well, not really. Not really. I wouldn't agree with that. This later date, on to the 11th, if it was going to be set for south Louisiana, the coastal marsh area, you wouldn't run to the 11th. You would probably cut it off back there around New Year's Day. Most of those marsh hunters down there would like to close even before the Christmas holidays. This later period is to take into consideration this mallard migration in the bottomland hardwood region.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are we tied to opening the second half on a Saturday?

MR. YANCEY: Well, we know if we don't open on a Saturday we get a lot of complaints. There is any number of options to consider here, from what we have recommended, but we feel that this is going to provide the best hunting for the most people and the best harvest of ducks in the state. In different areas of the state, that certainly is not best, and we will certainly acknowledge that. If we were setting the duck season strictly for the Monroe area, we would start January 20 and



back up 50 days.

MR. NEILL: We realize that.

MR. YANCEY: And if we were setting it strictly for Cameron Parish and Vermilion Parish marshes, we would probably start it November 4 and close about December 24, something like that.

MR. NEILL: I know it is hard to balance this but to our way of thinking, I don't think it would be all that detrimental in the entire outlook to have this last half you recommended moved up a week, and it would certainly be a tremendous advantage to us.

MR. YANCEY: Well, this is the thing for the Commission to consider and decide upon. In other words, that's --

MR. H. C. WRIGHT: Dick, may I ask you a question? What percentage of the duck population will be in the Monroe area?

MR. YANCEY: Well, the Monroe area is a mallard-wood duck area, and the later you go into the winter, then the more mallards they have up there.

MR. NEILL: Well, there have been a lot of



other people here from New Orleans and other areas, and they also wanted a late season. In fact, everybody that has talked here today has advocated a late season. Giving seven days not only benefits the people from North Louisiana but also benefits people in Toledo Bend area and the Shreveport area. It is not just North Louisiana; it seems to me like all the parts of the state except maybe the Cameron marsh area along there.

MR. YANCEY: That marsh country, incidentally, makes up 20 percent of Louisiana and 70 percent of the duckstaken. That is where 70 percent of your hunting takes place, on ducks, down there.

MR. NEILL: Here's the difference. He asked what was the percentage of ducks coming through North Louisiana. I can tell you it's a hundred percent of what we harvest.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, may I ask another question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. WINFREE: I heard Mr. Bosch say that he represented some 250 clubs and I heard another gentleman say he represented 2,000 duck hunters in



Orleans Parish, and these gentlemen from Monroe and that area. I would like a little more expression as to what would be against opening the season in the middle of the week. You talked about closing it in the middle of the week and Mr. Yancey's explanation was that people couldn't hunt until they got this Saturday.

I would like to hear what Mr. Bosch has to say about opening the season in the middle of the week as against opening it on Saturday. There's a world of duck hunters represented here today.

MR. BOSCH: Mr. Chairman, I believe the average duck hunter wants the season to open on a weekend, which would be a Saturday. There would be some extraordinary circumstances where many of them would go along with opening perhaps on a Friday, so that many of them would go hunting for three days and cook up Friday's kill in the pot and bring out a two-day limit, but I think if you start opening the season on a Monday, Tuesday or a Wednesday or Thursday, I think you would make an awful lot of people unhappy. If you could stretch it a point away from a Saturday and do it on a Friday,



yes, but other than that, I think you would get a lot of complaints.

THE CHAIRMAN: Why don't we take about a five-minute recess and then come back to this?

(A short recess was here taken.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Before we take any action on the duck season, let me acknowledge that we received a number of telegrams, as we usually do, with all sorts of recommendations. I received a telephone call from Senator Billy Brown in Monroe and, not any surprise, he echoed the feeling of all these people from Monroe that the people who had talked to him want the season as late as they can get the season.

We have on the press desk a number of copies of the statistics regarding last year's duck season, and I would ask, if any of you duck hunters want to take one home with you and take a look at it, it tells the story.

Is there anyone else that wants to be heard on the setting of the duck season? Yes, sir.

MR. VEILLON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say that after listening to some of the



reasoning that we have a split season -- of course, I came here with the directive to ask for a late straight season, and this gentlemen over here asked that the latter part of the proposed split be changed slightly, to run from the 23rd of December to the 18th of January, and Mr. Yancey made the point that having it that close to the Christmas holidays, a lot of people would be going shopping and maybe there won't be as much hunter opportunity.

I feel that any duck hunter that is a duck hunter, if he knows the second part of that split is opening on the 23rd, he is not going to wait until the last minute. Maybe his wife and his children will be out shopping, but a man that is an ardent duck hunter is not going to let shopping stop him from duck hunting.

In view of this reasoning, I would ask that the split be considered.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think one of the other problems that we certainly are aware of is that if we permit the split to be too long, the closed portion in between, we have a difficult problem in Catahoula involving lead shot. Dick.



MR. YANCEY: I just wanted to say I will withdraw any comment I made about shopping. Our basis for making this recommendation is that we feel that more ducks will be taken by the hunters in Louisiana, starting on December 16, than there will be on December 23, and that was the basis for our recommendation. In actual fact, the feeling of our people is that if you start it on December 9 and close January 4, you would take more than you will on December 16 and close on January 11. We have already compromised this thing back as far as we feel we can recommend, but if the Board decides to go with December 23, we have absolutely no objection to that. That is strictly a decision you have to make. We feel that December 16 to January 11 is going to provide more ducks and more hunting opportunity for more people than will December 23 to January 18.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. AUTIN: I move that we accept the recommendations of the biologists.

MR. WRIGHT: I will second that.



THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Autin, seconded by Mr. Wright, that we accept the recommendations of the biologists.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I assume that the recommendations are six ducks, two mallards, November 4 to November 26, December 16 to January 11, and I don't have the dates on the goose season, but it is the one that Mr. Yancey recommended, and they run concurrently.

I would like to amend that motion to include that the locks at the pool level above Jonesville be opened on Catahoula Lake 14 days prior to November 4, to raise the water level to elevation 28. Last year we lost our food crop from elevation 27 to 28. We don't expect much of a food crop from elevation 27 to 28 this year, and we don't feel that we will damage the food crop greatly. With an early opening, this is the only salvation that the 8,000 duck hunters on Catahoula Lake have for having any water on November 4.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion for the amendment. Mr. Autin, do you accept that? Is there any objection to this amendment? Hearing



none, the motion will stand amended.

Is there any further discussion?

(No response)

All those in favor of the motion, say
"aye".

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?

(No response)

The ayes have it.

The next order of business is a request
from the State of Arkansas for some more alligators.
They are live alligators, not skins.

MR. YANCEY: We have a request from the
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for another 100
or at least 100 alligators to be used in their
state for restocking purposes. We would recommend
that the Commission approve of that request.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are asking for 100;
why don't we give them 200?

MR. YANCEY: Well, we certainly have an
abundance of alligators, but they will send per-
sonnel down here to work with our people in catch-
ing these alligators.



THE CHAIRMAN: Would you have any objection to offering them 200 if they want it?

MR. YANCEY: Well, I would recommend at this point that we go with their 100, and there is some indication that they may provide us with a few turkeys to stock in Louisiana.

MR. HOFFPAUER: We ought to give them 200.

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can we put that turkey in there as part of the motion?

MR. YANCEY: Well, I would say let's negotiate that with them, but they did indicate that they would make some of those available.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation that we permit Arkansas to have 100 live alligators. It has been moved by Mr. Wright.

MR. WALKER: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Walker. Is there any other discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution



is here made a part
of the record.)

WHEREAS the Arkansas Game and
Fish Commission has requested an addi-
tional 100 alligators for restocking
purposes by letter dated July 18, 1972; and

WHEREAS a surplus of these
reptiles is readily available at the
Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge that can
be captured with little or no expense
to the Commission; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that
the request for 100 alligators for
restocking that was submitted by the
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is
hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these
shall be captured from the Marsh Island
Wildlife Refuge and transported by means
of trucks furnished by the Arkansas Game
and Fish Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: In connection with the
alligators, is Mr. Ensminger here? Where is that



AP man?

MR. ALLEN ENSMINGER: I think he left. Just in conjunction with the alligator things, I would like to inform you all that the experimental alligator project that Mr. Glenn Weems down in El Salvador kicked off here a couple of years ago that created some controversy and comments throughout the southern part of the United States has produced 13 young alligators. He informed me just this week that he had had a telephone call from one of his individuals in El Salvador, and they have requested that we permit Ted Joanen to go back down and take a look at these things and to review their pens and see if they think they have got some additional animals that will hatch off.

I would like to request that Ted be granted the authority to go down there on this thing at this time. Of course, they are going to pick up all the expenses, as this thing was agreed to by them and when Ted comes back, we will have all of this information available. I think it would be very wise and very helpful to have a news release with regard to the progress of that project.



THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Mr. Chairman, just one thing. If Ted goes, he is going on leave down there, is that right?

MR. ENSMINGER: Yes, Clark. Just like he has in the past, and they do pay all of the expenses and it is certainly a very worthwhile project.

MR. WALKER: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Walker. Is there a second?

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: That the recommendation of Mr. Ensminger be approved. Is there any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Mr. Schafer.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, while he is coming to the podium, would you give us the dates of the goose season again?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir. November 4 through November 26. Then December 16 through



January 31. That would be 23 days in the first segment and 47 in the second.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the oyster season will open on September 1 and we would like to have the Commission establish a sack only experimental oyster area.

THE CHAIRMAN: When did you say it was going to open?

MR. SCHAFER: September 1. That is on the public grounds.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. O.K.

MR. SCHAFER: I have gotten together with the oyster people from the East Bank and also from the West Bank and the Louisiana Oyster and Growers Association and we have kind of agreed on an area here. This is where the fresh water structure -- there is one there now and it will be enlarged so that about three times as much water will be introduced here, and we want some information on the effects of the fresh water before and after. We want this area in here (indicating on map) for a sack only. They will have to put back



the small oysters. This will be a year's experiment. It will be marked off by 2 x 2's as well as we can do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation of Mr. Schafer. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

MR. WALKER: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Walker. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, public oyster grounds are becoming very scarce as the oyster industry grows, more and more oyster leases are issued, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has during past years assisted the oyster fisherman by planting oyster seed reservations in



various locations along the Louisiana coast; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a portion of an oyster seed reservation should be open for sack oysters for experimental purposes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, at the special public meeting held on August 18, 1972, does hereby approve of the opening of a special area for the taking of sack oysters only, effective September 1, 1972 and to continue to remain open until May 1, 1973, unless it is determined biologically that it should be closed. All oysters removed from the area must be three inches and over with the smaller oysters being returned to the area. The area is located in California Bay, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, and is described as follows:

Starting at a point known as

Sunrise Point, Long. 89°34'06"



(x 2,561,400'), Lat. $29^{\circ}29'49''$
(y 306,300'). Thence approximately
N 85° E 2000' to the red Buoy Number
32, Long. $89^{\circ}33'44''$ (x 2,563,400')
Lat. $29^{\circ}29'49''$ (y 306,300'). Thence
approximately N 24° W 6000' to a point
on the most easterly end of an island,
Long. $89^{\circ}34'05''$ (x 2,561,400')
Lat. $29^{\circ}30'45''$ (y 312,000'). Thence
in a westerly direction along the
south side of the island to a point
on the northwest end of the island,
Long. $89^{\circ}34'12''$ (x 2,560,800')
Lat $29^{\circ}30'49''$ (y 312,400'). Thence
N. $46^{\circ}30'$ W 1400' to a point on the
most easterly end of an island,
Long. $89^{\circ}34'22''$ (x 2,559,900)
Lat. $29^{\circ}30'59''$ (y 313,400').
Thence in a westerly direction
along the south side of the island
to a point on the most westerly
end of the island, Long. $89^{\circ}35'00''$
(x 2,556,600') Lat. $29^{\circ}30'56''$



(y 313,000'). Thence S 72° W 2,000' to a point on the most easterly end of an island, Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 21''$ (x 2,554,700') Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 52''$ (y 312,600'). Thence in a southwesterly direction to the most southerly point on the island, Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 23''$ (x 2,554,500') Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 51''$ (y 312,450'). Thence S $08^{\circ} 30'$ E 600' to the most southeasterly point on L-19841, Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 19''$ (x 2,554,900') Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 44''$ (y 311,800'). Thence S $81^{\circ} 45'$ W 850' to a point on the southern boundary of L-19841, Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 33''$ (x 2,553,650') Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 45''$ (y 311,800'). Thence S $47^{\circ} 30'$ W 700' to the most southwesterly point on L-19841,



Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 39''$ (x 2,553,100')

Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 41''$ (y 311,400').

Thence N $44^{\circ} 45'$ W 700' to a point
on land at the most westerly point
on L-19841, Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 43''$

(x 2,552,750') Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 46''$

(y 311,950'). Thence in a southerly
direction along the shore to a point,

Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 57''$ (x 2,551,550')

Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 24''$ (y 309,700').

Thence N 51° E 600' to the most
northerly point on L-17564, Long.

$89^{\circ} 36' 03''$ (x 2,551,000') Lat.

$29^{\circ} 30' 27''$ (y 310,000'). Thence

S 52° E 1400' to a point on the
eastern boundary of L-17564, Long.

$89^{\circ} 35' 39''$ (x 2,553,200') Lat.

$29^{\circ} 30' 17''$ (y 309,050'). Thence

S 35° E 700' to a point on the
eastern boundary of L-17564,

Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 35''$ (x 2,553,550')

Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 11''$ (y 308,450').

Thence S $08^{\circ} 15'$ W 500' to a



to a point on the eastern boundary
of L-17564, Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 36''$
(x 2,553,450') Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 07''$
(y 307,950'). Thence S $32^{\circ} 15'$
W 500' to the most southerly point
on L-17564, Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 41''$
(x 2,553,000') Lat. $29^{\circ} 30' 02''$
(y 307,500'). Thence S 16° E 1900'
to a point on the south shore of
California Bay, Long. $89^{\circ} 35' 37''$
(x 2,553,400') Lat. $29^{\circ} 29' 43''$
(y 305,600'). Thence in an easterly
direction along the south shore of
California Bay to the point of
beginning at Sunrise Point.

MR. SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, the other
item I have, Mr. Ed Lennox came in the office late
yesterday afternoon and his company, --

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry, let me ask you
something. Are you opening the season in -- oh,
no, it is Calcasieu Bay instead of Calcasieu Lake.
You have on here "open area in Calcasieu Bay for
sack oysters only."



MR. HOFFPAUER: Is that Calcasieu Lake in Cameron Parish?

MR. SCHAFER: I don't have anything on Calcasieu Lake. That is California Bay.

THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, this thing about Calcasieu Bay is not supposed to be on there. I don't know how it got on there. O.K. Go ahead. I am sorry. No. 5 is not on the agenda, right.

MR. SCHAFER: Ratcliff Materials came in yesterday and what they want to do is make a loan, using their leases as collateral. This has been done before. This is a routine thing. What they need, their lease calls for any negotiation with their lease has to have written permission from the Commission. What they are asking the Board to do is authorize the Director to sign the papers so that they can use their two leases. One is at Pointe-au-Fer and the other is the Four Party Agreement in Lake Pontchartrain. As collateral for the loan they want to make.

THE CHAIRMAN: Has Peter Duffy, our attorney, examined it yet?

MR. SCHAFER: No. This came in right



around five o'clock yesterday, but it is the same form that has been used in the past. This was done twice before that I know of. I have the old files here. It has been done before.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: We have done that time and time again, haven't we?

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I would certainly like any action we take to be subject to Peter's approving the agreement, even though it has been done in the past.

MR. WRIGHT: I will make a motion that we do it, subject to Mr. Duffy's concurrence.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved that we approve the recommendation of Mr. Schafer, subject to the approval of the Commission attorney prior to being signed by the Director. Is there a second?

MR. WALKER: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Walker. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution



is here made a part of
the record.)

WHEREAS, by the terms of the
agreements, any purchaser is prohibited
from selling, bargaining, transferring,
conveying and assigning the agreement
and the rights and privileges covered
by such agreement without obtaining the
written approval of the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, Ratcliff Materials, Inc.,
is desirous of assigning two of their agree-
ments by way of mortgage to North Carolina
National Bank, as Trustee, under a Trust
Indenture from Ratcliff Materials, Inc.
and Southern Stone Company, Inc. to
North Carolina National Bank, as Trustee,
and the Citizens and Peoples National
Bank of Pensacola, Pensacola, Florida,
as Co-Trustee, to be dated as of
September 1, 1972, and

WHEREAS, Ratcliff Materials,
Inc. is desirous of securing and the



Commission is willing to give permission to grant, bargain, sell, convey, mortgage, assign, pledge, set over and confirm unto North Carolina National Bank, as Trustee aforesaid, the said Pointe-Au-Fer Agreement and the said Four Party Agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the Director be and is hereby authorized and empowered to sign any and all instruments giving the consent of said Commission to Ratcliff Materials, Inc., to mortgage to North Carolina National Bank, two agreements, the said Pointe-Au-Fer Agreement and the said Four Party Agreement, by and between the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and Ratcliff Materials, Inc.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me just say, while Harry is up there, that I had an occasion to be involved with Harry in a problem involving the Corps of Engineers in Calcasieu Lake, the Calcasieu



Rod and Gun Club had requested that the Commission take some action to stop the Corps of Engineers from really destroying Calcasieu Lake. Harry and Dr. St. Amant and their people met with them and worked out a compromise that was to the exact terms and wishes of the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club, and we appreciate that, Harry.

MR. SCHAFER: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business to come before the Commission? Our next regular meeting will be on August 29 at 10:00 o'clock in New Orleans.

MR. WALKER: Is that the day we are going to have Mr. Hoffpauer's hearing?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. We have set the agenda to begin at 10:00 o'clock and his matter is the last item on the agenda, so we will just proceed into it when we finish the regular items.

MR. WALKER: Is the 29th a Tuesday?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a Tuesday, correct.

MR. CHARLES BOSCH: You don't always meet on the fourth Tuesday?

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we did, but the



reason is that Mr. Duffy told us that we had to give Mr. Hoffpauer some notice, and we wanted to give him enough notice, so we moved it to the 29th instead of the 22nd, but you are correct.

Do I hear a motion that we adjourn?

MR. WALKER: I so move.

. . . Thereupon, at 12:15 o'clock
p.m., Friday, August 18, 1972,
the special meeting of the Board
was adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

